

Simonside Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Hills



Thursday 23rd October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half-term, it's lovely to reflect on everything that we have achieved so far this year as a Simonside school community. I am so proud of the way in which children have risen to the challenge of new learning opportunities and experiences. Here are just some of the events so far:

Y6 residential to Ford Castle

Y5 swimming

Y6 and Y4 swimming to RGS

Skip 2 B Fit

Family learning sessions for Reception

PACTs for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3.

Dame Chi Onwurah MP visit to school

Work to celebrate Black History Month

Focussed work on World Mental Health Day

Assemblies on British Values, Safeguarding and safe play at breaktimes

Jamilah visit to school

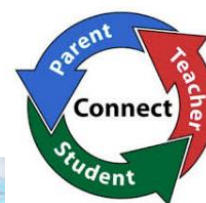
Orienteering competition for UKS2

NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe project across school

Parents' evenings

After school clubs

Football matches with other schools



Thank you to the staff who organised so many of these, to the parents who supported them and to the children who participated. We've maintained a lovely 'can-do' atmosphere in school which we are keen to sustain next half-term.

Mrs Watson and I met with our new Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA) this week. This group are keen to represent parent and carer voice across the school. They also have lots of ideas for fundraising and social events e.g. coffee mornings and parent drop-ins. If you would like to join the PTFA please just



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let myself or Mrs Watson know – the more the merrier! Our next big event is the Christmas Fair....watch this space!

One of my aims is to really put Simonside 'on the map'. I'd like to promote our wonderful school as much as possible and ultimately grow our numbers. As part of that I would like to be able to put photos on the website of the children's learning experiences. We still have a lot of families who haven't completed the permissions form sent via Parent Mail. Please do this as soon as possible so we know if there are any children, for whatever reason, who cannot have their photograph on the website.

Attendance and Punctuality

We still have too many families arriving late and coming through the main entrance. This is causing disruption to the office as staff are having to register children separately and take them to class. It is also causing some distress to the children themselves as they are walking into class after lessons have already started. Sometimes we have parents who need to speak to office staff confidentially but it's difficult when there are so many families arriving late in the mornings. Please try to improve punctuality after half term. Our overall attendance is now: 94%

Class in first place for attendance: Year 3/4

2nd place: Year 4

3rd place: Reception Ms Brennan's class

Well done!



Special Visitor

It was such a treat to have Jamilah come to school this week. She sang for the whole school in a special assembly and then led Q and A sessions with Year 5 and Year 6.



Jamilah was so lovely in her response to the children's welcome and engagement:

I wish I'd had someone that looked like me, come into my class at 9 years old, to show me I could do whatever I wanted to do 🥳 Im truly honoured for the opportunity, the abundanceeeee of love I still feel at this very second and just for the most wholesomeeee afternoon!! I wanted to bring them all home with me 🥰👉

Thank you! So so much!! The flowers 🌺 the chocolates 🍫 so thoughtful and kind! I've still got the biggestttt smile on my face!!

P.s I love that they know the words to #Water 🥰🥰🥰 P.p.s what a fantastic collection of questions 🙏 Those lot will rule the 🌍 xxx

Online safety

Some of the children are reporting that they have watched TV content that is unsuitable for their age group. Unfortunately, children can then act out unsafe, rough behaviour that they have seen on screens outside on the yard with their friends. The following guides may be useful for information on how to manage what your children watch on Netflix and Amazon Prime:

AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Amazon Prime Video has Parental Controls available in the Settings section of the Prime Video website. The settings let you set the age range of content that can be watched without entering a PIN: U, PG, 12, 15 and 18. Settings apply to all devices (bar the Xbox 360, Wii U and Fire TV, which have their own settings), but you can opt-out devices of your choosing in the settings. For example, you may not want to have any restrictions on your iPad, which only you use. PINs can also be used to block purchases.

NETFLIX

Netflix lets you create profiles for everyone in your house. On the Netflix home screen, if you select Manage Profiles, you can change each one to show different content, defined by age group. Children should be encouraged to use their profiles only, particularly as there's no way to PIN protect adult profiles. However, you can PIN-protect content globally, so if a child does use your profile, they're blocked from watching inappropriate content. Go to Netflix, select Account from the drop-down menu by your name and select Parental Controls. You'll be prompted to enter a PIN, but then can select which content is PIN protected by age range: Toddlers, Older Children, Teens and Adults. You can also PIN protect specific programmes by typing their name in, which could be handy if you feel a programme is unsuitable or a child has been watching it too much.

Harvest

We celebrated our Harvest Festival today. The UKS2 children led the full assembly from beginning to end, reading poems and educating the children about what harvest means. The whole school sang our harvest songs. Thank you so much for all the donations of food for our school food bank. If you are in need of anything from the food bank, especially in the run-up to the half-term holiday, please just let us know. Don't forget...we have lots of spare second-hand uniform too.



Half-term Holiday

We break up for half-term tomorrow, Friday 24th October, and return to school on Monday 3rd November. Have a wonderful, relaxing time and we look forward to another busy half term when we return.

Yours sincerely,

E. Hills

Mrs Hills
Head Teacher

